

allowing consolidation of ownership of broadcast media is a sacrifice of the public interest without any offsetting benefit or justification. There is no rationale to support the notion that larger media systems offer any benefit without destroying the communication. That is, one voice speaking for an entire state or group of states or even the country may be cheaper but it is no longer communication - it does not represent the diversity of opinion, private corporations have no obligation to be representative of the population served. If a free press is essential to a democracy and the proposed consolidation would by its nature obviate a free press we as a society would be less democratic.